

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 14-373V

Filed: July 5, 2016

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LAUREN E. NEELY,

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UNPUBLISHED

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Petitioner,

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Special Master Gowen

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v.

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Attorneys' Fees and Costs.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

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Respondent.

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Daniel J. Leeper, Leeper & Leeper, St. Petersburg, FL, for petitioner.

Michael P. Milmo, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS¹

On May 1, 2014, Lauren E. Neely ("petitioner") filed a petition pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.² 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2012). Petitioner alleged that as a result of receiving a human papillomavirus vaccine on May 5, 2011, she developed peripheral neuropathy and related medical complications, irritable bowel syndrome, fibromyalgia, myalgias, chronic pain, dizziness, headaches, cognitive impairments, and chronic debilitating fatigue. On May 12, 2016, the parties filed a stipulation in which they agreed to an award of compensation to petitioner. On May 13, 2016, the undersigned issued a decision adopting the

¹ Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned's action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this ruling on the website of the United States Court of Federal Claims, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction "of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy." Vaccine Rule 18(b).

² The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2012) (Vaccine Act or the Act). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

parties' stipulation for an award. See Decision on J. Stip., filed May 13, 2016.

On June 29, 2016, petitioner filed an unopposed motion for attorneys' fees and costs. Petitioner's counsel requested a total of \$19,080.00 in attorneys' fees based on a total of 63.6 hours of work at a rate of \$300.00 an hour. See Application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, Exhibit B at 5, filed June 29, 2016. Petitioner also requested \$3,252.50 in attorneys' costs. Id. at Exhibit B at 2. Respondent was provided documentation of the attorneys' fees and costs and advised that she did not oppose the total amount requested. Id. at ¶ 6. Pursuant to General Order No. 9, petitioner represents that she did not incur any out-of-pocket expenses related to this litigation. See General Order #9 Statement, filed July 5, 2016.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. section 300aa-15(e). Based on the reasonableness of petitioner's request, the undersigned **GRANTS** the request for approval and payment of attorneys' fees and costs, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300 aa-15(e).

An award should be made as follows:

- (1) **in the form of a check jointly payable to petitioner and to petitioner's attorney, Daniel J. Leeper, of Leeper & Leeper, in the amount of \$22,332.50.**

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance herewith.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Thomas L. Gowen
Thomas L. Gowen
Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.